REMARKS

Formal Matters

Claims 1-12 are the claims currently pending in the Application. Claims 1, 11 and 12 are amended herein to correct a mistranslation such that the phrase "multimedia object which is registered" is amended to "multimedia object which is to be registered" and also to more clearly recite the invention by reciting that the category setting section not only sets a recommended category but also provides the category to a user as an initial value of a registration category, and allows the user to determine the registration category to be registered. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification on page 10, lines 8-10. Claims 2 and 3 are canceled herein.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging receipt of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119 (a)-(d), and for review and consideration of the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed with the application on October 22, 2003.

SPECIFICATION

The Examiner has objected to the abstract of the disclosure because it contains nearly exact repetition of the language used in claim 1. Accordingly, applicant submits herewith an amended Abstract. This amended abstract contains the proper language and is of the proper length for an abstract of the disclosure. No new matter has been added. Applicant appends herewith a clean copy of the amended abstract for the convenience of the Examiner. It is respectfully requested that this abstract replace the earlier filed one.

The Examiner objects to the specification as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. The Examiner states that "registerer" and the term

"registration end category candidate" both recited in claim 3 are not disclosed in the specification. Applicant herein cancels claim 3 and requests that this objection be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 1-2, 7-12 Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-2 and 7-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Nojima, U.S. Patent 6,442,538 ("Nojima"), in view of Bolle, et al., U.S. Patent 6,892,193 ("Bolle"). This rejection should be withdrawn based on the comments and remarks herein.

Nojima discloses a system for registering video information in a database and retrieving it therefrom. The system analyzes a video stream, separates content therefrom, extracts annotation information such as an image feature vector of the content, and stores the annotation information in a video information table (column 2, lines 41-47). However, while Nojima discloses calculation of feature values, it contains no description concerning categorization, and specifically does not disclose automatic calculation of a category.

Bolle discloses that features of characters, voice and video are found, and video is categorized based on these features (abstract, Fig. 2). Bolle also discloses a system for performing categorizing of multimedia items in a large number of categories (column 11, lines 46-48). Thus, Bolle discloses the following processes: inputting of an object, calculation of feature values of the object, categorization based on the feature values, and database registration performed while associating items with each other. However, Bolle does not disclose a feature of providing an initial category value to a user who determines

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the category with which a multimedia object will be registered, which is a feature recited in the independent claims of the present invention.

The present invention relates to a system having an inventive feature for registering a multimedia object. To be more specific, the independent claims recite that, when a multimedia object input from an input section is registered to an object database, at least the multimedia object itself, feature values of the multimedia object which are obtained by performing a calculation with the feature value calculation section, and a category determined by the category setting section based on the feature values, are registered. Further, the system automatically determines a recommended category for the multimedia object by performing a calculation, and thus the category can be easily registered.

Amended independent claims 1, 11 and 12 recite at least the following two features: (1) the category recommended by the system is presented to the user as an initial value, and (2) this recommended category can be changed by the user, before the multimedia object is registered. If adopting the recommended category to be the registration category, the user does not need to change the initial recommended category value. On the other hand, if the recommended category is not appropriate, the user can change it to an appropriate one. Thus, the appropriate category can be accurately and quickly associated with the multimedia object, and registered.

In order to quickly and accurately register a category associated with a multimedia object, the present invention provides the following advantages: (1) the system automatically determines a recommended category by performing a calculation; (2) the recommended category is presented to the user as an initial value; and (3) the

recommended category can be changed by the user. These advantages are not disclosed or even suggested in the cited references.

For at least the following reasons, Applicants' claimed invention is neither anticipated by nor obvious from Nojima in view of Bolle. By way of example, independent claims 1, 11 and 12 recite a category setting section configured to set a recommended category which is provided to a user as an initial value of a registration category for allowing the user to determine the registration category of the multimedia object to be registered.

As stated above, neither Nojima nor Bolle disclose or suggest setting a recommended category as an initial category value and allowing a user to determine a registration category for the multimedia object to be registered. Thus, combining these references would not overcome this deficiency and would not disclose the invention as claimed in amended independent claims 1, 11 and 12. It is submitted to be axiomatic that in order for a claimed invention to have been obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103, as a minimum, the combination proposed by the Examiner must result in that which is claimed. For the reasons above, it is submitted that the combinations and modifications as proposed by the Examiner with regard to the references do not result in that which is claimed and accordingly the rejection of claims 1, 11 and 12 should be withdrawn.

Claims 8-10 depend from independent claim 7, incorporating all of the features and steps therein. Claim 2 is canceled herein. Therefore, claims 8-10 are patentably distinguishable over the prior art for at least the reasons that their respective base claims are patentably distinguishable over the prior art. Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 3-6 Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 3-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Nojima, in view of Bolle, in further view of Squilla et. al., U.S. Patent 6,810,149 ("Squilla"). This rejection should be withdrawn based on the comments and remarks herein.

As stated above, neither Nojima nor Bolle, even combined, disclose all of the features of independent claim 1. Specifically, neither disclose or suggest setting a recommended category as an initial category value and allowing a user to determine a registration category for the multimedia object to be registered. Squilla does not overcome this deficiency.

Squilla discloses a system which categorizes digital images. For example, Fig. 3C of Squilla discloses that the icons are displayed on a screen. Thus the system of Squilla merely displays downloaded icons. To be more specific, in Squilla, categories of the icons are automatically set by the system. "The set categories cannot be changed by the user" (see column 5, lines 22-25). Therefore, Squilla cannot suggest setting a recommended category as an initial category value and allowing a user to determine a registration category for the multimedia object to be registered as recited in independent claim 1.

Claims 4-6 depend from independent claim 1, incorporating all of the features and steps therein. Claim 3 is canceled herein. Therefore, claims 4-6 are patentably distinguishable over the prior art for at least the reasons that their respective base claims

are patentably distinguishable over the prior art. Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

For at least the reasons set forth in the foregoing discussion, Applicant believes that the Application is now allowable and respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the rejections and allow the Application. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this Amendment, or regarding the Application generally, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney.
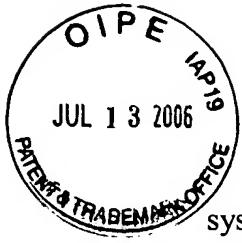
Respectfully submitted,

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SUBSTITUTE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system and method for registering multimedia objects into a database, the system having various feature values possessed by the multimedia object as digital data. The feature values are used to search for a similar object. The system comprises a feature value calculation section configured to calculate one or more types of feature values from the multimedia object which is to be registered into the database. The system further comprises a category setting section configured to set a recommended category, based on the feature value, and provide this recommended category to a user as an initial registration category value so that the user can either accept this value or input another registration category value for the multimedia object. In addition, the system comprises a registration section configured to associate and to register the multimedia object, the feature value, and the category determined by the user into the database.

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